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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroshi KISHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2629

Application No.: 09/698,441

Examiner: A. ABDULSELAM

Filed: October 30, 2000

Docket No.: 107427

For: CONTROL APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR INPUT SCREENS

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. In reply to the April 3, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

**I. Request to Make "Special" Pursuant to MPEP §707.02**

Applicants respectfully request that this application be considered "special" pursuant to MPEP §707.02. MPEP §707.02 requires, "[a]ny application that has been pending five years should be carefully studied by the supervisory patent examiner and every effort should be made to terminate its prosecution. In order to accomplish this result, the application is to be considered 'special' by the examiner." This application has been pending since 2000, which is over five years. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request this application be considered "special" by the Patent Office.

**II. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 4-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are allowed. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejected claims are also allowable.

**III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-3, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP Publication No. 11-198845 to Wataru et al. in view of JP Publication No. 10-221424 to Yoshio. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Wataru and Yoshio, alone or in a permissible combination do not teach or suggest an operation nullification canceller or an operation nullification cancel means "that cancels prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance if a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claim 15 (emphasis added). Furthermore, the applied references fail to disclose "canceling prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance if a predetermined time period has elapsed since the prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance," as recited in independent claim 18 (emphasis added).

The Office Action acknowledges that "Wataru's release switches (12, 13) are not automatic and the predetermined time mentioned is not the time elapsed right before the release of the switches (12, 13)." Furthermore, Yoshio does not remedy the deficiencies of Wataru.

Yoshio does not disclose canceling prohibition against the inputting if a predetermined period has elapsed since the prohibition as recited in independent claims 1, 15 and 18.

Yoshio merely discloses switching at least a part of the information so that a part of the display is intensified so as to be more noticeable than other information at night (Yoshio, Abstract). In other words, Yoshio merely changes the illumination of the display at a preset night period. Thus, the time period of Yoshio does not elapse, "since the prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance."

Furthermore, even if there was motivation to combine the alleged teachings of Yoshio and Wataru, the claimed invention would not have been achieved. The predetermined period of Yoshio is a preset period of time and has no association with an operation by the operator. In other words, the predetermined period of Yoshio is not "automatic" with respect to an action performed by the operator. At most, if there was motivation to combine, the display of Wataru would have the ability to change the amount of illumination at a preset period. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed operation nullification canceller would not have been rendered obvious by the alleged combination of Yoshio and Wataru.

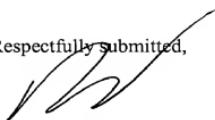
Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1, 15 and 18 are patentable over Yoshio and Wataru. Further, claims 2 and 3, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Yoshio and Wataru for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JAO:RBI/hms

Date: July 3, 2007

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